

AFFIDAVIT

Sheriff's
Polk County



Office
Winter Haven, FL

FORM #9011A - Revised 05/27/10

Agency ORI Number
FL0530000

INCIDENT NUMBER
120089756

JUVENILE

X

ADULT

BOOKING #

OBITS#

IN CIRCUIT/COUNTY COURT IN THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR POLK
COUNTY, FL

SUBMITTING MEMBER SMITH,KEVIN SCOTT

MEMBER # 5794

DATE /TIME OF ARREST/INCIDENT

11/30/2012 04:30:00

LOCATION OF INCIDENT 1325 LAKEVIEW RD LAKE WALES

NOTICE TO APPEAR

COMPLAINT AFFIDAVIT

X

ARREST REPORT

CITY OF LAKE WALES(Unincorporated), COUNTY OF POLK, STATE OF FLORIDA

RIGHT THUMB PRINT

THE UNDERSIGNED AFFIANT SWEARS SHE/HE HAS JUST AND REASONABLE GROUNDS TO BELIEVE THAT ON

11/29/12 AT

APPROXIMATELY 08:38:00

IN THE VICINITY OF

LAKE WALES

POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA

RICHARDS,BETH DICKISON

ALIAS

LAST

FIRST

MIDDLE

ADDRESS 1325 LAKEVIEW RD LAKE WALES, FL 33853

PHONE

RACE/SEX

W/F

DOB

5/9/1975

HT

508

WT

160

EYE

BLU

HAIR

BRO

COMP

FAR

BUILD

Small

SPEECH

NOR

SCARS

POB

, KY

MARITAL STATUS

DL#

ST FL

SS#

OCCUPATION

CARRIER

EMPLOYER/SCHOOL

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

PHONE

JUV-PARENTS

PHONE

n/a

NOTICE TO APPEAR/OF APPOINTMENT

I AGREE TO APPEAR IN COURT/JAC AT _____, FLORIDA ON
_____ 20 _____ AT _____ AM/PM TO ANSWER THE CHARGE(S) IN THIS COMPLAINT OR
TO PAY THE PRESCRIBED FINE FOR THIS OFFENSE. I UNDERSTAND THAT A WILFUL FAILURE TO APPEAR WILL RESULT IN A WARRANT FOR
MY ARREST AND MAY BE A NEW OFFENSE (DO NOT BE LATE).

Defendant/Violators Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

COMMITTED THE OFFENSE(S) OF:

Murder 1st Degree Premeditated (ATTEMPTED) FSS/FAC/CO

782.04(1)(A)1 Counts: 1

LEVEL/DEGREE F1

Poison Food/Water/Medicine WIT Kill/Injure FSS/FAC/CO

859.01 Counts: 1

LEVEL/DEGREE F1

CANNABIS POSSESS Not More Than 20 grams FSS/FAC/CO

893.13(6)(B) Counts: 1

LEVEL/DEGREE M1

Poss./Use Narcotic Paraphernalia FSS/FAC/CO

893.147(1) Counts: 1

LEVEL/DEGREE M1

ORIGINAL

AFFIDAVIT
CONTINUATION

Sheriff's
Polk County



Office
Winter Haven, FL

FORM #9013A - Revised 05/27/10

Agency ORI Number
FL0530000

INCIDENT NUMBER
120089756

CO-DEFENDANT:

VICTIM/WITNESS:

Victim: RICHARDS,GREGORY HM 1325 LAKEVIEW RD LAKE WALES FL 33853 (863)258-6440 12/4/72
LAWRENCE

PROBABLE CAUSE: Please list all victims/Witnesses with Name, DOB, Address and Phone

On 11/29/2012 at approximately 6:30PM, deputies responded to 1136 Circle Drive in Lake Wales Florida in reference to a reported poisoning. Deputies arrived and made contact with the reporting person, Joan Jarvis; a witness, Jessica Jarvis; and the victim, Gregory Richards. Upon arrival, your affiant made contact with these individuals and they all provided sworn taped statements alleging the victim's wife, Beth D. Richards, attempted to poison the victim.

Your affiant obtained sworn, recorded statements and directed the collection of evidence establishing that the suspect, Beth Richards, purposely placed Trazodone in the victim's food which he consumed without knowledge of the contamination. During his recorded statement, the victim stated he woke up on the morning of 11/29/12 as usual and his wife, Beth Richards, made him a lunch. This lunch included a tuna fish sandwich. The victim stated he went to a local worksite, where he works as an electrician. Later in the day, he received a text message from his wife, the suspect, asking him if he had eaten his sandwich yet. The victim later consumed a little over half of the sandwich, but thought it tasted odd. He explained that the sandwich had an aspirin aftertaste. The victim became very dizzy and nauseous for several hours as a result of consuming this contaminated food. In fact and according to the victim, he blacked out at one time and fell from a ladder at work.

During the recorded, sworn statement of the witness, Jessica Jarvis, she described that she was the suspect's stepsister and had not talked to the suspect until approximately one month ago. Jessica described their conversations at first to contain some humor from the suspect in which she referenced putting things the victim is allergic to under the victim's bed. This witness stated the suspect also asked her if she knew if gold dust would kill someone. Jessica stated she thought the suspect was joking, but that on 11/29/2012 sometime around noon the suspect came to her residence and told her she crushed up eight Trazodone pills and put them in the victim's tuna fish sandwich in order to kill him. Jessica stated the suspect told her she wanted to kill the victim and she thought the pills in his food would cause an accident that would take his life. Jessica, who was disturbed with this, asked the suspect how and why she would do this. The suspect told Jessica she used crushed Trazodone and combined it with the sandwich she provided to the victim for lunch. Jessica stated the suspect told her that if the sandwich did not work, she would put the remaining ten pills in his dinner. Jessica stated the victim counted out the ten pills in front of her. Jessica stated to your affiant at that point she contacted the victim's family, who in turn warned him.

Your affiant made contact with the suspect at approximately 11:30PM and she consented to a search of her residence located at 1325 Lakeview Road in Lake Wales. This was the location where the suspected poisoned food was prepared. During this consensual search your affiant located a small tan and brown handbag in the drawer next to the bed in the master bedroom. Your affiant opened the bag and could smell the odor of what he recognized as cannabis coming from the bag. Your affiant could also see a dark leafy substance in the bag that he suspected to be cannabis. Your affiant asked the suspect if there was cannabis in the bag and she said she did not know, but that she has used the bag to transport cannabis in the past. The dark leafy substance field tested positive for cannabis.

The suspect was arrested and your affiant read her Miranda rights to her from an agency issued Miranda card.

Post Miranda, the suspect confessed that she did crush the Trazodone up in a clear plastic bag and prepared three separate sandwiches, placing the crushed pills in his sandwich only. The suspect also admitted that she did confide in her stepsister, Jessica Jarvis, about what she had done, but stated she only used two or three pills. The suspect stated she did this because the victim was verbally abusive. The suspect stated she knew it was wrong and she was sorry.

Based on this investigation, it was determined that the defendant committed attempted first degree murder in that

AFFIDAVIT
CONTINUATION

Sheriff's
Polk County



Office
Winter Haven, FL

FORM #9013A - Revised 05/27/10

Agency ORI Number
FL0530000

INCIDENT NUMBER
120089756

she crushed eight Trazadone pills and maliciously placed them into the victim's food with the premeditated design to affect the death of the victim.

Based on this investigation, it was determined the suspect intentionally and unlawfully added a chemical compound (Trazodone) to the victim's food, which was consumed by the victim, with the intent to cause his death. As a result of this act, the victim became both drowsy and nauseous to the point he briefly lost consciousness.

The suspect was arrested and transported to the Polk County Jail without incident.

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME, THE UNDERSIGNED AUTHORITY, THIS 30 DAY OF November

This affidavit was electronically signed

CARVER,SHAUN 5369

DEPUTY CLERK/NOTARY PUBLIC/LEO

SMITH,KEVIN SCOTT 5794

AFFIANT

2011/11/30